

Portraits Oct 7 1852

I have just arranged my Polanew
Dunal's book is abominable as to multi-
plication of species - every slight garden
variety is made a species of - every slight
discrepancy between a description and a
specimen from the same set is made a
specific distinction and many species are the
result of mere capriciousness - *Triguera barata*
is a fiction (fourneport's plant being *Panthus*
bulgarifolia) The 13 *Lycopodium* are but
two - the 59 *Chonilla* ~~var~~ (91 though 1. californ.
mexim?) are but one. *Polana* 160, 170 and 209
are identical though put so far apart - *Polas*
454, 457 and 469 - about 20 species belong
to *P. elongata* - altogether I would undertake
to reduce the 900 *Polana* to 500 at the most,
the 50 *Coprosma* to two or three. *Lycium*
3 to 5 all belong to *L. barbarum* - *Datura*
Hyoscyamus & *Atropa* *arguta* reducing
in the same way - the unfortunate *Pteris*
parviflora *fragrans* & others as *P. parviflora*
P. viridula *Chamaecyparis* *viridula* *Lepto-*
phragma *prostrata* & *L. manthevidensis*.
Peper *vestita* is repeated under *Cestrum*
Peper *concolor* and *Cestrum* *atrovirens* are
identical etc. etc. It will be very difficult
to make out a *Cestrum* or a *Polanum* by
this book. Have you looked up *Sorghum*? Then
are *Stipa* ^{two species} *Chamaecyparis* or *Pteris* one
must be *St. Bonchettia* but I cannot
quite make it out nor do I exactly see the
generic distinction between *Bonchettia* ^{new} *Chamaecyparis*
Chamaecyparis *Tegon* form of *Chamaecyparis* *averech*
I wish you would clear up the N. American
Polanew - I shall not continue Dunal's
book publicly because he cannot speak well of it
and I have too great a personal regard for him to
risk offending him Yours ever
George Bentham

My dear Gray

We are exceedingly concerned to hear
of Mr Gray's accident I trust from what
you say there was no intentional injury -
but bruises are bad enough - We know
what they are from the great length
of time Mr Bentham was recovering
from her bruised arm - she was near
three months before she could raise
her hand to her mouth and has not even
yet quite the free use of it though she
considers herself a quite recovered Gray
give both our kindest remembrances to
Mr Gray and do not fail to let us know
how she gets on when you write.

I was in town for a couple of days
when your letter came - I had been to
pick up poor Lemmon's herbarium - I
only returned on the evening of the 30th
when there was of course no time to
get a boy to Liverpool by the 1st of the
month - so if there is no other opportu-
nity I shall wait to send what I have
for you till your next provisions are
needed - Five good boxes are just come
from him.

Many thanks for the precious *Tegonia*
and for *Chamaecyparis* Salt Lake reports

By the way the stamps you put on I was
of no use - the cover of the book was
not open at both ends and I was I
believe beyond weight - It came to me
in a parcel by coach and I think
carriage paid - by whom I know not.
The stamps were not sold and will do
again - I enclose a couple of dozen

Of the plants you send

The *Ipomoea* from the garden at Meyers-
road is as far as I know new - near Leptien
but much finer cut leaves etc. Wrought n.
500 (of my set) is the same with the lower
leaves however not quite so fine

Noted: *Cortaria* 260 I have called
Eragrostis (*Cortaria*) *subspicata* - I have not
yet got a copy of my paper from
Copenhagen where I understood it is
nearly finished printing but in my
rough copy I see "*Habitu Eragrosti*"

some approximate to peppers
simplex" - leaving the specific name blank
to be written in in the fair copy. I
suppose I meant my *Heterochaeta strobilata* but
I forget. The specimens of 260 show
not all that rigid aspect some look
like *Kunth's* figure
I enclose some seeds of my *Heterochaeta*
I see most as I described them hairy in the
middle & smooth round - some have cilia
also on the edge - and some have the mouth
part very narrow almost disappearing

I do not venture absolutely to name
the three *Coryza* / without any figure
at all but short tubular female
flowers and the central flower (tub.)
with *Alumina* on account of the tails
which are sometimes however almost
imperceptible - but I have not
examined *Alumina* enough for the
purpose

Kunth's figure of *Coryza gnaphaloides* is
exceedingly unlike my *Heterochaeta strobilata* but
may be the same for all that

1. Kunth's figure of *Eragrostis gnaphaloides*
is very unlike the specimen you send me
of Wrought n. - and without ascertaining
on Kunth's specimen that he is wrong
in the outer perianth (which is not likely)
I do not see how you can ignore it by
uniting them. I have nothing like
your plant from elsewhere

Your *Eupatorium bonora* is hardly
distinct from my *E. multiflorum* it
is smaller, more downy, the leaves rather
deeper crenate & the inflorescence rather
more compact but are those sufficient
characters? There is a whole set running
from *E. Schiedeanum* to *E. paniculatum*
& again from both to a slender leafy
one I have called *E. capillipes* which
it is very difficult to distinguish though
the extremes are so very different